Nanette S. Edwards, Executive Director



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Office of Regulatory Staff 1401 Main Street Suite 900 Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 737-0800 ORS.SC.GOV

February 25, 2020

## **VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire Chief Clerk & Administrator Public Service Commission of South Carolina 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100 Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: Application of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. For Authorization to Flow-

Through Alternative Fuel Tax Credits to CNG Retail Sales Customers

Docket No. 2020-66-G

Dear Ms. Boyd:

By this letter, the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") hereby notifies the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") that ORS has reviewed of the request of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. ("Piedmont" or "Company") for authorization from the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") to flow-through alternative fuel tax credits to Compressed Natural Gas ("CNG") Retail Sales Customers. The Company proposes to flow-through these credits beginning March 1, 2020 and for the remainder of the calendar year via a reduction in rates applicable to service under Rate Schedule 242 and certain special contract fleet fueling agreements.

## **Overview of Company's Request**

To encourage the use of CNG and help alleviate the excise tax, the United States Congress recently extended the tax credit for retail sales of CNG used as an alternative motor vehicle fuel from December 31, 2017 through December 31, 2020. Piedmont proposes to flow-through this tax credit to the retail customers who purchase CNG at the Company's public CNG refueling stations through a temporary rate decrement. The Company's proposed temporary decrement is consistent with "cost causation" and allows Piedmont to allocate the credit to the customers purchasing CNG from Piedmont. Due to transaction detail limitations, retroactive flow-through of this credit to customers who purchased CNG on or after January 1, 2018 and prior to March 1, 2020 is not feasible.

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## **ORS Recommendation**

ORS supports Piedmont's proposed temporary decrement to its CNG rates under Rate Schedule 242 and under its Commission-approved special contract fleet fueling agreements. Additionally, ORS supports the Company's request that the Commission approve the proposed effective date of this decrement of March 1, 2020.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

cc: All Parties of Record (via e-mail)

Joseph Melchers, Esquire (via e-mail)